



February 26, 2013

To: Public Health Committee

From: Brian Jud – Public Policy Specialist, Connecticut Community Providers Association

Re: **SB 129** AAC the Hartford Regional Center Operated by the Department of Developmental Services

Please accept this testimony **in opposition** of **SB 129** AAC the Hartford Regional Center Operated by the Department of Developmental Services.

The Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA) represents organizations that provide services and supports for people with disabilities and significant challenges including children and adults with substance use disorders, mental illness, developmental, and physical disabilities. Community providers deliver quality health and human services to 500,000 of Connecticut's residents each year. We are the safety net.

CCPA opposes SB 129, An Act Concerning the Hartford Regional Center Operated by the Department of Developmental Services, and **HB 6005**, An Act Concerning a Moratorium on the Close of Group Homes Operated by the Department of Developmental Services. CCPA's opposition to this bill is largely rooted in keeping DDS and the State of Connecticut on the same page, which we feel would not be accomplished should this bill pass that would prohibit the closure of all state-run group homes, including the Hartford Regional Center group home located in Newington. Putting a moratorium on closing state-run group homes would be a major detriment to the state financially, as the cost of running these facilities is very high and very inefficient. Further, instituting such a moratorium runs counter to DDS's own plans, which already acknowledge the needs and wishes of individuals who live in DDS-operated facilities and their families. According to DDS's Five Year Plan, "the chance for individuals and their families to find out what opportunities are available for them in the community is a critical first step in determining the best next step for each person...the plan is for any transition from Southbury Training School or the regional centers to occur in a thoughtful and purposeful way." Despite what this bill might imply, current residents of DDS-operated facilities are not currently being forced to move out. Individuals and families who agree to visit other community settings are by no means required to leave DDS-operated facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We look forward to working with your Committee on this bill, and we welcome any inquiries you might have.

CCPA

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